CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for lifting and supporting a cover being geometrically configured to fit atop a cooking utensil having an outer lip extending circumferentially thereabout, said apparatus comprising in combination:

means for mounting a support fork assembly to the cover;

a vertical support member pivotally attached to said support fork assembly and having a top end;

means for attaching said vertical support member to the cooking utensil; and

a latch mechanism pivotally attached to said support fork assembly for engaging said top end to selectively hold said support fork assembly at an incline position.

2. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising an adjustable support block slidably connected below said top end to engage a portion of the outer lip, said adjustable support block having a slot extending longitudinally thereabout for receiving a screw threadably engaged to an inner facing side of said vertical support member insofar to allow said adjustable support block to incrementally move upwardly and downwardly thereabout to accommodate varying heights of the cooking utensil.

3. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said attaching means comprises at least two suction cups fixedly attached to an inner facing side of said vertical support member.

4. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said mounting means comprises a lid bracket having at least two outwardly extending flanges integrally connected to a top plate situated therebetween, each of said outwardly extending flanges having a suction cup threadably mounted to an undersurface thereof for engaging the cover.

5. An apparatus as set forth in claim 4, further comprising a knob having a threaded stem fitted with a washer and threadably inserted into a threaded aperture extending through said top plate to secure said lid bracket to said support fork assembly.

6. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said support fork assembly comprises a pair of elongate arms configurably arranged on each side of said latch mechanism.

7. An apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein each of said elongate arms comprises primary, secondary and tertiary apertures extending therethrough for receiving a corresponding number of fasteners to steadily hold together said elongate arms in a parallel orientation.

8. An apparatus as set forth in claim 7, wherein said support fork assembly further comprises an arm spacer having a bore extending longitudinally thereabout configurably aligned with said secondary aperture of each of said elongate arms to slidably accept therethrough said fastener.

9. An apparatus as set forth in claim 7, wherein said support fork assembly further comprises a pair of latch spacers each having an elongate bore extending therethrough and selectively positioned perpendicular in between said elongate arm and said latch mechanism and configurably aligned with said tertiary aperture of said elongate arm and an aperture extending through said latch mechanism to allow pivotal movement thereabout.

10. An apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said latch mechanism comprises a flatten plate having an aperture extending therethrough and first, second, third and fourth sides, said first side comprising a handle extending outwardly therefrom, perpendicular thereto for assisting in engaging and disengaging said latch mechanism to and from said top end of said vertical support member, said second side comprising an angular edge commencing near said aperture of said plate and terminating at said third side to provide unhindered movement of said latch mechanism, said third side comprising a cutout having an abutting end and a geometric configuration substantially equivalent to said top end of said vertical support member, said fourth side comprising a second angular edge commencing at a point substantially transverse from said aperture of said latch mechanism and terminating at said third side to form a protruding member having one side in common with that of said cutout.

11. An apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein each of said elongate arms comprises a depression extending inwardly partway near a first end thereof and a D-shaped ring having two inwardly protruding ends each being situated within said depression, said D-shaped ring being suitably placed in a position to gain the maximum amount of leverage needed to lift said support fork assembly with ease from an at-rest position.

12. A method for lifting and supporting a cover being geometrically configured to fit atop a cooking utensil having an outer lip extending circumferentially thereabout, said method comprising the steps of:

situating alongside the cooking utensil a vertical support member having a top end and an adjustable support block slidably affixed therebelow for engaging a portion of the outer lip;

mounting to an inner facing side of said vertical support member at least two suction cups to engage a sidewall of the cooking utensil to tighteningly hold said vertical support member in a vertical orientation;

connecting a pair of elongate arms to said vertical support member and situating in between said elongate arms and pivotally attaching thereto a latch mechanism having means for engaging said top end of said vertical support member; and

attaching to the cover a lid bracket having at least two outwardly extending flanges integrally connected to a top plate situated therebetween, each of said outwardly extending flanges having a suction cup threadably mounted to an undersurface thereof for engaging an exterior top surface of the cover, said top plate comprising a threaded aperture extending therethrough for threadably receiving a threaded stem of a knob to tighteningly secure said lid bracket to said elongate arms.

13. A method as set forth in claim 12, wherein said engaging means comprises a cutout formed from out of a third side of said latch mechanism and having an abutting end and a geometric configuration substantially equivalent to said top end of said vertical support member.

14. A method as set forth in claim 12, wherein each of said elongate arms comprises a depression extending inwardly partway near a first end thereof and a D-shaped ring having two inwardly protruding ends each being situated within said depression, said D-shaped ring being suitably placed in a position to gain the maximum amount of leverage needed to lift said support fork assembly with ease from an at-rest position.

15. An apparatus for lifting and supporting a cover being geometrically configured to fit atop a cooking utensil having an outer lip extending circumferentially thereabout, said apparatus comprising in combination:

a vertical support member having a top end and an adjustable support block slidably affixed therebelow for engaging a portion of the outer lip;

at least two suction cups fixedly attached to an inner facing side of said vertical support member;

a support fork assembly having a pair of elongate arms each having an end pivotally attached to said vertical support member and a latch mechanism situated in between and pivotally attached to said elongate arms collectively allowing said support fork assembly to pivot about said vertical support member to selectively hold the cover at an incline position; and

a lid bracket having at least two outwardly extending flanges integrally connected to a top plate situated therebetween, each of said outwardly extending flanges having a suction cup threadably mounted to an undersurface thereof for engaging the cover, said top plate comprising a threaded aperture for receiving therethrough a threaded stem of a knob to tighteningly secure said lid bracket to said elongate arms.

16. An apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein said threaded stem is fitted with a washer having an outer effective diameter substantially capable of bridging across said elongate arms.

17. An apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein each of said elongate arms comprises a depression extending inwardly partway near a first end thereof and a D-shaped ring having two inwardly protruding ends each being situated within said

depression, said D-shaped ring being suitably placed in a position to gain the maximum amount of leverage needed to lift said support fork assembly with ease from a static position.

18. An apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein said latch mechanism comprises a flatten plate having an aperture extending therethrough and first, second, third and fourth sides, said first side comprising a handle extending outwardly therefrom, perpendicular thereto for assisting in engaging and disengaging said latch mechanism to and from said top end of said vertical support member, said second side comprising an angular edge commencing near said aperture of said flatten plate and terminating at said third side to provide unhindered movement of said latch mechanism, said third side comprising a cutout having an abutting end and a geometric configuration substantially equivalent to said top end of said vertical support member, said fourth side comprising a second angular edge commencing at a point substantially transverse from said aperture of latch mechanism and terminating at said third side to form a protruding member having one side in common with that of said cutout.

19. An apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein each of said elongate arms comprises primary, secondary and tertiary apertures extending therethrough for receiving a corresponding number of fasteners to steadily hold together said elongate arms in a parallel orientation.

20. An apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein said support fork assembly further comprises an arm spacer having a bore extending longitudinally thereabout configurably aligned with said secondary aperture of each of said elongate arms to slidably accept therethrough said fastener.

21. An apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein said support fork assembly further comprises a pair of latch spacers each having an elongate bore extending therethrough and suitably positioned perpendicular in between said elongate arms and said latch mechanism and configurably aligned with said tertiary aperture of elongate arm and an aperture extending through said latch mechanism to allow pivotal movement thereabout.

22. An apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein said elongate arms, latch mechanism and vertical support member are collectively fabricated from polycarbonate.